

Message Text

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42

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02 IO-10 /038 W

----- 109961

P 301601Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3656

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, EG

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: TWA RESTRICTIONS

REF: CAIRO 3526

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INTOUCH WITH BOTH TWA MANAGER CARROLL AND AMBASSADOR OMAR SIRRI, CHEF DE CABINET FOR FONMIN FAHMY, ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO PROBLEM OF RESTRICTIONS INITIALLY IMPOSED BY GOE ON TWA FLIGHTS TO ROME AND ATHENS, BUT SUBSEQUENTLY SUSPENDED FOR 30 DAY PERIOD.

2. FAHMY'S REACTION TO CABLE FROM TWA PRESIDENT WISER (SEE REFTTEL) WAS TO ORDER STUDY OF MATTER TO BE PREPARED BY STAFF. AFTER STAFF CONSULTATIONS WITH CIVIL AVIATION GENCY, EGYPT AIR AND CARROLL, FAHMY SENT LETTER TO NEW MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION, HAMDY ABU ZEID, STRESSING POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF INCREASING EGYPT'S LINK WITH OUTSIDE WORLD, INCLUDING, OF COURSE, AIRLINE FLIGHTS TO AND FROM CAIRO. BECAUSE OF PRESSURE OF OTHER BUSINESS, INCLUDING RECENT CABINET RESHUFFLE AND VISIT TO MOSCOW, FAHMY'S LETTER WAS NOT DISPATCHED UNTIL APRIL 23.

3. ACCORDING TO SIRRI WHO CONSULTED WITH HIM ON TELEPHONE APRIL 30, CIVAVIATION MIN INDICATED HE AGREED THAT POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS RAISED BY FAHMY LETTER HAD TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT EVEN IF THIS MEANT INCREASED BURDEN OF COMPETITION FOR EGYPTAIR. HE TOLD SIRRI THAT HE WOULD ASK OFFICIALS OF HIS

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MINISTRY TO CONTACT TWA MAY 3 TO ARRANGE FOR CONSULTATIONS

IN ORDER TO SEEK ARRANGEMENTS WHICH MIGHT BE AGREEABLE TO BOTH SIDES. IN RESPONSE TO SIRRI'S QUERY, ABU ZEID SAID THAT THE PRESENT SUSPENSION OF RESTRICTIONS ON TWA FLIGHTS (DUE TO EXPIRE APRIL 30) WOULD REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL SOME AGREEMENT WAS REACHED.

4. EMBASSY COMMUNICATED THIS INFORMATION TO CARROLL WHO INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE READY TO CONSULT WITH CIVIL AVIATION MINISTRY AT ANY TIME AND FELT HE WOULD BE IN POSITION TO PRESENT CONVINCING CASE. EMBASSY WILL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH CARROLL AND FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY.
EILTS

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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